

# FRENCH PREMIER PICTURES HIS NATION'S DANGERS

## BRIAND TWICE MADE A DOCTOR OF LAWS

Degrees Conferred Yesterday by Columbia and New York University.

## DECORATES 2 AMERICANS

Bestows Legion of Honor on Louis Wiley and Mrs. William B. Meloney.

Twice yesterday Aristide Briand, the French Premier, had the degree of doctor of laws conferred on him—first by the New York University and then by Columbia.

He arrived in New York in a special car attached to the Pennsylvania train arriving from Washington at 8:15 (it was fifteen minutes late), and was met by Charles W. Price and Melville E. Stone, representing the Lotos Club, and by Brig-Gen. Cornelius Vanderbilt and George W. Bursleigh, representing Gov. Miller. There was no considerable crowd present.

After some hesitation and three attempts to lift Briand to the concourse level, in as many elevators, he was escorted across the waiting room floor to the motor car that took him to the home of Gaston Liebert, French Consul-General, 471 Park avenue.

He had dinner with Mr. Liebert, after which he decorated Louis Wiley, business manager of the New York Times, and Mrs. William Brown Meloney, a journalist who was instrumental in bringing about the visit to this country of Mme. Marie Curie, with the Legion of Honor. That done, he went up to the New York University where, after the simplest of ceremonies, Chancellor Elmer E. Brown conferred upon him the first of the degrees. The Premier was presented for the degree by Dr. George Alexander, president of the council of the university. Charles H. Sherrill translated Premier Briand's reply, in which the latter said he had some hesitation in determining to come to America to attend the Conference for the Limitation of Armaments. He declared his hesitancy was born of a fear that, being unable to speak or understand English, he would fall of complete understanding.

"But I found," he concluded, "that the language in Washington has been the language of the heart, so I understood." From New York University he was conducted to Columbia by S. H. Burton and Snowden Fahnstock of the France America Society. In another motor car, two members of the Columbia staff, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler and William Barclay Parsons met the Premier when he arrived.

Because of the hour (4:30) and because the weather made public appearances impossible the degree was conferred in camera. Only once before has Columbia honored distinguished visitors in this manner. Albert King of the Belgians was the guest of honor. The ceremony took place in the reading room of the library.

In replying to Dr. Butler, who conferred the degree, the Premier said in part:

"On leaving the shores of France I thought perhaps I would have to go through an ordeal such as the orphans or rather unfortunate men of Europe experienced before being allowed to land. On the contrary I was allowed to go free without any further questioning. Nor have I had to be brought before the authorities before being recognized as the Prime Minister of France. Upon my receiving my degree of doctor of laws at this university I feel that the manifestations of appreciation as these reach all lovers of America."

Premier Briand, who stopped at the Plaza Hotel, said for France to-day. After leaving Columbia University, Premier Briand was taken to the headquarters of the American Committee for Devastated France, 16 East Thirty-ninth street, where he was met by Miss Anne Morgan, head of the committee, who welcomed him. The Premier replied to her greeting:

"The people of France never would have forgiven me had I not paid a visit to the headquarters of this organization. Your committee represents to France the great heart of America." Miss Morgan is to call on the same ship with the Premier to-day. Among those present at the reception were Mrs. Gilbert H. Montague, vice-chairman of the committee; Mrs. Ellhu Chaucer, Dr. and Mrs. Hyman M. Biggs, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Pierpont, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee and Brig-Gen. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

## BRIAND TELLS LOTOS CLUB FRANCE NEEDS PROTECTION

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spirit of justice would be able to discern the bare, absolute truth through the clouds of lies with which persons who are conducting this propaganda disseminated the truth, so I was not surprised when at Washington my explanations were welcomed with such unanimous applause by the audience, and when, after I had finished the speaking I had the pleasure of hearing the representatives of the other countries who had not also and are still our friends, state that they all had perfect trust in my country and that France would never have to fear any moral isolation.

"France in going to Washington wants to show her determined, fixed will to work in favor of peace and to work with the same ardor, the same eagerness, she has put into the cause of victory. I have come to tell you that after having been victorious, thanks to your cooperation, France would feel that she was failing in her duty if she did not after war and after victory, remain faithful to your ideal of peace."

"If after thus having been saved from danger France could for one moment think of using her liberty and armed forces to try to create in Europe the same military and imperialistic supremacy from which she has suffered for fifty years and against which she always protested, France would not be worthy of your sympathies and you would be entitled to reproach us, you who came to shed your blood with ours and of whom so many are now sleeping their last sleep in the soil of France. If there had been a provocative France I should not be here now able to speak on her behalf. I have come here to hold high my head and with a true heart, because I believe that she is now defending the cause of a noble nation, and which I tell you what France has done in the cause of peace and in the cause of disarmament you will believe me when I say she could not do more and could not act otherwise."

### Fight for Civilized World.

"In spite of the sore wounds inflicted on her in spite of the military burdens that weigh so heavily on the shoulders of her people, still we are fully conscious that France must defend her security. France is fighting in the service of the whole civilized world."

"If France has an army it is because she is obliged to have one in order to defend her life, her independence, her liberty, and her dignity. France has an army which is ready to defend the cause of the world by protecting it against disorder and anarchy in whatever form they may present themselves. Remember what happened but a few months ago. There was an invasion, a wild rush from the far east, a portion of Europe against Poland."

"The barrier stood firm, in spite of the people who on the other side of Poland, were negotiating with the Russians to join them. Think what would have happened if the barrier had not stood firm. Think what would have happened to Europe, in what wild state of anarchy it would find itself at the present time. And why, gentlemen, did Poland succeed in stopping the onslaught? It was because the French army was there. I do not mean to say that the French army actually fought, but the fact was there, and that fact in itself was conclusive to stop disorder and anarchy on its road."

"If you want to realize the true feelings of the French people, think of the way in which the last war, the great war, has been terminated. Remember what happened in France fifty years ago. You remember what happened at Sedan, you remember the territory of France violated and her citizens outraged. You remember the enemy, thus having invaded France, insisted on entering the heart of France and violating its capital. The Prussians actually entered Paris and we could not stop them. They were victorious; they might have been content with our defeat and their victory, but they wanted to trample France under foot, and as I say they entered Paris."

"In spite of this physical and moral wound, in spite of incessant provocation for fifty years, France remained cool and pacific. Each time a difficulty arose France asked that there should be a resort to arbitration. She knew, she felt, what a scourge a new war would be, and so on her part she did not want to make the slightest gesture that could precipitate such a horror again on the world. You know what happened. We were suddenly attacked and invaded."

"I feel reluctant to spread out these wounds before you, though I am not complaining, but when a man has been able to see his country in such a frightful state of devastation that makes most of it a sort of lunar landscape, that is to say, with no life at all, with the houses raised to the ground, so that you wonder if a blade of grass will ever

grow again in that country—when a man has seen that he must speak.

"When France, forgetting the recollection of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, has accepted and signed peace of her own will, when France allowed the enemy to withdraw with its flags unfurled, with its hands playing, when the enemy was allowed to retire under conditions of dignity which were denied us fifty years before, then is there anybody who has the right to represent France as a nation of prey, as a nation that wants to trample upon her enemies and give other peoples no chance to live?"

### Delays After Peace Is Signed.

"Since the signature of peace what has happened? You know, of course, we had lost three hundred billion francs, six hundred thousand of our houses had been destroyed, most of the manufactures and works in the north of France razed to the ground and the machinery taken away, so that means of production which were left to France were practically nil."

"Well, after the war, and after victory, France for two years patiently discussed with Germany the problem growing out of the war, because Germany tried to deny her signature, tried to back out of what she had been obliged to give. She began to say that she was not responsible for the war and she did not see why she should have to pay compensation; mind, only compensation, for the havoc she wrought. At that moment she showed nothing of all will, yet France was strong and France had an army and she might have used it."

"France remained cool and patient. She did nothing that might have disturbed peace, and today, in spite of the many houses of mourning in our country, there is no feeling of hatred in our hearts. We do not want to dig deeper the ditch that may lie between the two peoples. We do not want to do anything that might excite the minds of the people and precipitate them into a new war."

"What France wishes to see is a Germany with which she can establish correct, normal relations, in a state of balance or equilibrium that is necessary to establish peace, and France is only too anxious to have the voice of such a Germany heard on the other side of her frontier."

"During the war we had German-Americans fighting with us—people whose parents at some distant time came from Germany and became Americans. We saw some of these soldiers who came over and fought on our side. They formed the Thirty-second Division, and that division was one of the most heroic on the battlefield. It had been called the 'Tiger Division' by one of our greatest generals."

### German Americans in War.

"What was it? Had these German Americans forgotten their first mother land? Was it possible to see them to fight against what had been their original country? No, gentlemen, they were fighting because they had become French citizens of the United States. They were fighting to show they were not against Germany, they were only fighting against oppression—they said that they were fighting against the Germany of Hohenzollern, a Germany of militaristic tendencies. To those people who have been Germans originally and became citizens of the United States I am speaking from this platform, hoping my voice will be carried to them from all corners of your country."

"I say to them, why don't you speak

across the waters to those who belong to your former countries? Why don't you tell them to meet us, tell them to do everything possible to restore normal conditions? Tell them this and you will have nothing to fear from France."

"That would be part to play, that certainly would have been remarkable. Would be worthy of the doing, and if I had been a citizen of the United States, originally coming from Germany, but having taken of the liberty of your country, I should speak like that and I am sure that if all these men of good will joined in our endeavors, the atmosphere that lays upon the world at the present time would be finally and determinedly dispelled."

"Gentlemen, we owe to our glorious dead in our many glorious tombs all over our country and in our Arc de Triomphe, in Westminster Abbey and but a few days ago in Arlington assurance that they have not died in vain. These glorious dead when they fell covered with blood on the battlefield must have felt that they were dying that others should not die in the same way, and I believe, gentlemen, that every corpse would rise out of the grave if they should think for one moment that their sacrifice was useless."

"We should remember on this day that you have been our champions in the war and you have helped us to realize victory, and now your glorious dead cry for peace."

The French Premier was introduced by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia, whose eulogy of France and support of her plea for an adequate defense against aggression rivaled in eloquence that of the great orator himself. In welcoming Mr. Briand, Chester S. Lord, president of the club, said:

"If gratitude could be measured in dollars and cents, France not millions but trillions."

"Some of our guests in former days have said that when one comes under the influence of the lotos flower he forgets his own country, but whatever may be our lapses of memory otherwise, we of the Lotos Club never forget France, and may the day never dawn when American friendship for France languishes; may the hour never come when America hesitates to befriend France in her time of need."

Dr. Butler said that Mr. Briand had spoken as no other could for the soul of France. He hoped that the Washington conference would mark an epoch, that the Premier, speaking in that conference last Monday, had "told with stern realism the story of a people's heroism and purpose."

He described the visitor as the spokesman of a proud and generous people that did not purport ever again, if moral or material force could prevent it, to suffer a repetition of the horrors of the years just closed. Limitation of armament cannot in itself produce peace, Dr. Butler said. If a nation had the will to fight it could fight if it had only two ships or 100,000 men.

### Would End Threats of War.

"The question is," he went on, "Are you willing to do these things, in concert with the other nations, that will remove the invitation to war? The first essential toward making limitation of armament possible and permanent and toward removing the threat of other world wars is the establishment of the security of France and her people. (Cheers.) That is neither rhetoric nor empty compliment to a distinguished guest; it is the recognition of obvious fact."

France, he said, geographically, was like a spearhead projected toward the Western world. If there was to be future fighting, France lay where the fighting must be if it was to be. No nation was going to destroy civilization by attacking Argentina, or Oregon; it would attack France. The security of

## FOCH IN HEAVY RAIN INSISTS ON SPEECH

Refuses Umbrella as Large Crowds Greet Him at Harrisburg Capitol.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 24.—Pennsylvania's capital to-day gave Marshal Foch a reception that will stand out in its long line of greetings to distinguished men in more than a hundred years. Despite driving rains and cold winds, tens of thousands of men, women and children welcomed the French soldier, who responded by a feeling reference to "the heart of Pennsylvania."

On his arrival here the Marshal sent a Thanksgiving Day message to Harrisburg Mayor, commander of the American Legion, in which he said:

"On this, your day of thankfulness, I join with all my spirit in the prayers of gratitude for the blessings enjoyed by the world. My heart goes out to the members of the American Legion, whose quest I am in this country; to the millions of Americans I have seen, and to those whom I shall have the pleasure of greeting. The more I see of Americans the more I admire and respect them for their ambition, energy and generosity of spirit."

"I am thankful to-day for being in your country, for being able to visit your historic shrines, for meeting Americans as I do and hearing from their own lips their sentiments toward my beloved country, France."

"My prayers go up to-day for the continued welfare and happiness of the American people, for her men who fought for world freedom, and above all, for her wounded soldiers, whose bravery and sacrifice we do not forget on this solemn day of rejoicing."

Mayor Hoover then presented the Marshal with a gold headed ebony cane on behalf of the citizens of Harrisburg. As the Marshal began to respond rain fell in torrents, but he waved aside umbrellas which were put up to shelter him and strode to the front of the stand, where he spoke for a few minutes in French, praising Pennsylvania's war record.

### Depew Predicts World Peace.

Chauncey M. Depew, a Lotos member of forty-eight years standing, followed Mr. Briand. He said: "To-night, as I heard him speak, I could see the Old Guard of Napoleon charging down upon the enemy." Mr. Depew recalled that his grandfather knew Lafayette, and that his father met the French patriot when he visited America in 1828. He predicted that "out of the conference in Washington the peace of the world will come." H. G. Wells, he said, had predicted the whole world going to smash.

"But it isn't," said Mr. Depew. "Amity, friendship and love are coming to pass. And I say to Mr. Briand that he can board his ship to-morrow and take back to France the knowledge that the 116,000,000 of Americans are behind him for all time to come."

Once more the others got up and cheered.

### FOCH ENJOYS TURKEY DINNER IN TRAIN

ALTOONA, Pa., Nov. 24.—Marshal Foch enjoyed a real American Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and the other "fixings," to-night aboard his special car.

The Marshal spent the day quietly after leaving Harrisburg on the first leg of a trip that is expected to take him to the Pacific coast and back. His special car, the Loretto, provided by Charles M. Schwab, was decorated for the trip with flags and bunting. Except for the dinner there was no special entertainment.

His next scheduled stop will be Macon City, Iowa, the home of Harford MacNider, commander of the American Legion, where he is due to-morrow.

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